

First United Methodist Church
2 Chapel St.
P.O. Box 446
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

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Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Drawing by Jennifer Tayne

May/June 2009

*If you would like to be added
or removed from this mailing,
please let us know.*



Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 AM
Sunday School begins in the
Sanctuary at 10:00 AM.
Coffee Hour after Worship Service in
the Fellowship Hall.

THE CLARION

First United Methodist Church
Seneca Falls, New York
PASTOR: Rev. Marilyn Foster
Admin. Assistant: Carol Tayne
Church Office & FAX: 568-6306
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Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thur
9:30 AM-12:30

Website:
www.sfmethodistchurch.org

From my study window,

I see the forsythia showing off its beautiful yellow color and swaying in the breeze. I remember when we planted it---the little “twig” that is now taller than I am. It has survived the brutal winter winds that threatened its very survival. It has grown so quickly! It reminds me of my recent trip to Hawaii, watching my new granddaughter, Iliana Rose; as she stretched her tiny arms and legs. I knew she would be walking by the time I could see her again. “Stretch and grow, my little one,” I thought as I watched her. “Stretch and grow into the lovely person you will become...a child of God and a gift to your family.”

No one ever told me that we would always need to stretch and grow, even beyond adulthood. But I have come to realize that growth is an important part of life. To cease growing is to begin to diminish and die. The older I get, the more I am aware of the need to continue to learn new things, grow in ways that stretch both mind and heart. There are always new projects, new ideas, new ways of doing things, new computer skills to learn and.....well, I can even transfer tunes to my Ipod....all by myself! And I have discovered new ways of sharing what I have with others.

That’s also true for the church. To cease to grow is to begin a downward spiral that diminishes who we are and leads to becoming—well-- old and stuffy and outdated. It’s easy for churches to become complacent, settling for what fits into their comfort zone. And in the present times, that comfort zone is considered mostly in terms of dollars and cents. Will we have enough? How much is enough?

What if we were to look at things from a different perspective? What if we just keep stretching and growing? What if we were to accept new challenges and develop new ministries that would reach out into the community and beyond, without considering the cost? The needs are too numerous to list, as well as the possibilities for ministry. We have persons in our own neighborhoods who may need our help. There are places in the world where the needs are dependent on our understanding of being in mission, as they struggle with daily survival.

God calls us to make a difference in the world! And sometimes we find people who respond to that call. Sunday I spoke about our need to step up to our full responsibility for the Church World Service asking for 2009. This morning I received a visit from a member who responded to my plea. (Wow! Someone actually listens!) He presented me with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00. Before the day was over, I had a second check in the same amount. These two donors are issuing a challenge to all who can help meet our mission goals.

Our children have shown us recently what a joy it is to do kind things for others—without being asked. We have many folks who understand that very well. As a church family there is much that we can do together, in response to the blessings of our own lives and our life together. The writer of Hebrews says, “...let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works....encouraging one another all the more.”

That’s a nice way to stretch and grow!

Yours in faith,

Marilyn

STEPPING STONES PRESCHOOL
would like to thank everyone for their support again this year.

Our lessons continue to be a reflection of the Seneca Falls Central School District outline for Kindergarten Readiness Skills. Our last day of school is May 29, 2009.

There will be a total of 29 openings for 2009/10 year. All slots are currently filled. This is a decrease from 2008/9 of 36 openings, due to Christi and Barb teaching part time in the public schools during the year. Theresa Ehrseman, Christina Redding & Shonna Duffy will be collectively covering the classroom in their absence, following curriculum established by Christi.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Christi Dickenson and Barbara Robinson

\$\$\$ A Word about Finances \$\$\$

Our church endowment fund, like every other investment, has suffered significant losses as a result of the economic trends of recent months.

In an effort to be faithful stewards of all church monies, our budget has been trimmed back to a bare bones budget, by taking such measures as freezing salaries, monitoring building use, program and utility costs. Our newsletter will be published 3 times per year, and efforts to trim postage costs are being taken.

You can help.....Please be sure to turn off lights if you are the last one to leave any room. Doors to the sanctuary should be closed, except during worship. Quarterly pledge statements will be available for you to pick up after church, so that only a few need to be mailed.

Suzette Hedge is our new Financial Secretary. We welcome her to our team.

And we owe much thanks to Heather Frederick for the excellent work she has done for the past few years. We are blessed with such folks who give of themselves in ways that are challenging and great responsibilities.

The finance committee works very hard to monitor our church at work, and to help us stay faithful to our commitments. They have also taken on very successful fundraisers, such as soup, chili, and perogie sales. Thank you.

FUND RAISING

We have a wonderful committee to raise funds so we can meet our church's financial obligations. If you have any ideas or can help in any way, contact the church office or **Maria Hartwell at 568-8162, Maria Fowler 568-8067, Sheryl Puylara, Heather Frederick, or Susan Noble.**

SOUP SALES

Soups are disappearing fast.

They can be pickup up mornings during the week and available after church. We made and froze Chicken Vegetable, Chicken Corn, and Vegetable Beef soups for \$4.00/quart and Chili for \$5.00/quart. To date we have made \$837 on the soup fundraisers!

Thanks to the committed cooks and your continued support!



CHICKEN BBQ

May 30, 2009

11:00 am 'til sold out!

at Waterloo Lafayette Park

To benefit our Trustee's Maintenance Fund. Presale tickets will be sold at \$7.50 each. Presale dinners must be picked up by Noon. Thanks to all who help and support this project!

PEROGIE SALE

We have a few dozen in the freezer for \$6.00 per dozen. We have made about \$600 to date on this fundraiser! Thanks to Maria Hartwell and Maria Fowler for coordinating this effort and all who helped!

The Peddlers' Village BAZAAR

November 7, 2009

Everyone person is asked to help with this fundraiser. Please collect items for the various shops and perhaps work your magic at home (sewing, crafts, preparing jams, jellies, etc).



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, May 3

11:00 -- **CHURCH BRUNCH**
presented by UMW **Relay for Life Team**

Wednesday, May 6

6:30 pm – Central Lakes Dist. Conference

Sunday, May 10 -- Mother's Day

Sunday, May 17--

Last day of Sunday School
CHILDREN'S QUILT DAY
And CELEBRATION!

Wednesday, May 20 – Come meet
Bishop Marcus Matthews, newly
appointed to this area. Laity gathering with
the Bishop will be at 6:00 pm at Auburn
United Methodist Church.

Tuesday, May 26--Sat, May 30
NCNY Annual Conference, Liverpool, NY

Saturday, May 30--
CHICKEN BARBEQUE
Lafayette Park, Waterloo
Sponsored by our own Trustees

Sunday, May 31
– **CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION!**
The children will be involved in the worship
service. We will be presenting Bibles to our
graduating third graders. Please join us for a
celebration of our church family with cake
and punch after the service.

Friday, June 5--RELAY FOR LIFE
Sponsored by SFUMC

Sunday, June 14 – Sunday School
Project

Sunday, June 21 – **Father's Day**

Vacation Bible School Begins

We will have a 10 week summer
program, similar to last year, Sundays
during worship hour for all ages. Signup
sheets will be out for help needed with
teachers & snacks.

List of Items needed:

- Paper plates
- Popsicle Sticks – Regular size
- 20 gauge gold craft wire
- 24 gauge gold craft wire
- 24 gauge silver craft wire
- Gold ribbon
- Newspapers
- Any plain color wrapping paper
- About 20 solid colored bandanas
- or 20"x20" squares of cotton
- 20 Large cardboard box tops
- Acrylic paint
- Large craft sticks
- Multi-colored yarn
- Talcum powder
- Glue
- Tape

Please leave items in the Carter Room

Our Spring/Summer Wish List:

--Persons who can provide **special music**
During the summer months (children too!)
--Help with **spring cleaning** inside and out.
We have a list of things you can choose
from.
--We need **large plastic totes** with lids to
store supplies and projects for bazaar.

SUMMER EVENTS

WEDDINGS

June 20 -- Jessica Garnsey/Todd Gilbo

June 27--Rebecca LoTurco/Matthew
Hubbard

August 29 --

Amy Rosenkrans/Robert Dickman

Summer worship services begin in June, which will include a children's moment. The children will go downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for Vacation Bible School. The only exceptions to this schedule will be holiday weekends, including Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Parents are welcome to use the Nursery or Memorial Room at any time.

Exploring Church Membership

If you would like to explore joining our church, please call the office.

Acolytes for July & August - Please let Amy Jacuzzo (568-2742) know if you want to acolyte during the summer!

Applause! Applause! Many thanks to.....

all who helped with music for the Lenten/Easter season.....

Special thanks to Lucille Frasier and Jan LaValley for their leadership; and to John Pratt and Janielle Walters for special music; and to all who joined the church band for a very special Sunday in February.

To Suzette and Jenny Hedge .for lovely flower arrangements each week.

A Special Thank you to Lisa VanDelinder for the Palm crosses on Palm Sunday.

Kids Can Make A World of Difference!

We can make a difference! The children have led the way during Lent. Rather than collecting coins during worship, they teamed up with a quilt maker in the congregation, and then proceeded to do random acts of kindness to earn their 9-patch quilt. I knew there would be some who would like the project, but we ended up with 30 children enrolled, and 17 quilt makers. Now, let's see. If each child did 9 acts of kindness,

that's 270 good things happening right here in our own neighborhood. I think that's quite a mission project! (Marilyn Foster)

Thank you, quiltmakers!

You have helped make a child very happy. Janielle Walters, Charlotte Lind, Ruth Lind, Shirley Minard, Barbara Reese, Selena Soura, Jan Driscoll, Gretchen Micio, Sue and Jenny Hedge, Maria Hartwell, Olga Brand, Zoe Noble, Susan noble, Marlette Morehouse, Jean Verzillo, Pat Gere, and Marilyn Foster.

You have helped our kids make a world of difference!

HOORAY FOR OUR CHILDREN, who participated in the special **Lenten project. Instead of collecting coins each week**, they agreed to do Random Acts of Kindness during that time period. Your lists were impressive! They included:

- cleaning up someone's yard
- food and clothes to House of Concern
- good toys to House of Concern
- helped with the laundry
- picked up garbage at Village Square
- played with lost dog waiting for its owner
- comforted a classmate who was crying
- shared Easter goodies with classmates
- took soup to a homebound neighbor
- helped with dinner and clean-up

32 Participants: Kelly Reese, Jackson Puylara, Jordan Wickard, Carter Puylara, Nicole Siwarski, Carter Shumway, Evan Wickard, LaToya Soura, Brianna Wickard, Katie Shumway, Jared Hartwell, Nicholas Hartwell, Evan Frederick, Will Reese, Sam Micio, Regan Soura, Ariel Simmons, Jonah Hauf, Alexis Simmons, Abby Hauf, Thomas Micio, Kyle Siwarski, Jacob Hartwell, MiKenna Duffy, Kelly Jacuzzo, Laura Jacuzzo, Jared Hartwell, Emily Hoster, Curtis DeYeo, Louisa Hoster, Avery Philbrook, Ashlyn Philbrook.

Together, you performed 270 kind deeds in our neighborhoods.

Anyone interested in **SUMMER CAMP**, check out the websites www.casowasco.org or www.aldersgateny.org, the brochures in the Carter Room or call the church office 568-6306. **Register early!**

The Varick UMC is again offering FULL scholarships to anyone in our Sunday School who is going to camp! Let us know ASAP!

We are looking for a few good people...

to serve in the following ways:

- Family Ministries Coordinator
- Pastoral Care Assistant
- Helpers for weekly children's Summer program (2 per week)
- Church Historian
- Coffee Hour Coordinator to help schedule Programs and hosts
- Scripture Readers
- Visitors Coordinator (design and assemble packets and ways of welcoming visitors)
- Greeters/Ushers

Sewing Classes For Beginners

Sign up for 6 weekly sessions
beginning Tuesday, June 30th 2:00-4:00
in the church Fellowship Hall

(Knitting classes to be announced.)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Are you looking for a way to honor someone? Flowers on the altar for Sunday worship is always a nice way to do that. We have a big signup sheet on the acolyte closet door for you to reserve your Sunday and let us know when we can plan on your arrangement. You can simply call Sinicropi Florist at 568-6345. (They can deliver them the Saturday before and send you your bill) Or you can bring in a nice arrangement early Sunday morning from your garden or a local distributor.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We are starting a new chapter of this great organization that has been a part of our church for many years, until last year's loss of so many faithful members. After an organizational meeting in March we're off and running.

A new chapter has begun by sponsoring a church team in the RELAY FOR LIFE event June 5th and 6th at Mynderse Academy, to benefit the American Cancer Society. There are still openings on the team and all are welcome. See Jan Driscoll. We've been selling purple pansies and ribbons, luminaries, and sun and moon cards. May 2nd UMW will be providing lunch after church and will be accepting donations to raise money for the cancer society.

Future projects include having a blood drive and starting a youth reading club and special summer projects.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Phyllis Wolfe, Eloise Miller, Todd Miller, Glenn Kelly, Carter Shumway, Susan Hyatt, Jamie Mock (friend of Sheryl Puylara), June (friend of Janelle Walters), Terri Elder, Joanna Kay Lynch, Andrew Lynch (in Afghanistan, family of Nancy Bradley), Elene Moeri (Mary Freeland's sister), Andrew Wellott, Helen Lawler (Mary Freeland's mother), Elnor Taylor, Peggy Clark, Jeb Becker, Lorraine & Don Travis, Ainsley Marquar.

On April 4, 2009, Ciro "Sam" Alongi, Sr. passed away at the VA Medical Center in Canandaigua after a brave battle with cancer. Sam was married to Rosalie Barto Alongi, one of Duane's older sisters, who predeceased him by about 25 years. The Barto family felt Sam was very blessed to have an angel named Charlotte Ridley enter his life after Rosalie's death. For the past 20 years Charlotte and Sam were companions who complimented one another and always attended the Barto family gatherings.

Rev. Foster asked me if I thought Charlotte would enjoy a prayer shawl. Of course my conclusion was "what woman wouldn't want comfort after losing a close friend", so I accepted from the church a beautiful variegated pink patterned shawl (one that Rev. Foster made) and mailed it to Charlotte's address in Penn Yan.

Yesterday, I received a thank you e-mail as follows:

Dear Marilyn and Duane,

The lovely shawl was received in the mail today; what a lovely thing to receive. I know that each time I wear it, I will be reminded of Sam. I thank you for it and for also accepting me into your family. I did not intend to replace Rosalie, for I know that she could never be replaced, as she was the love of Sam's life. Sam and I had 20 years of good memories, but that did not diminish the years he spent with Rosalie. From all that I have heard about her, she was a wonderful person and one that I would have been proud to call my friend. I hope that we can keep in touch and the memory of Sam will live on for all of us. He was a wonderful man and cared for his extended family. Although at times he was a little gruff, he still cared and loved us all. God bless to one and all.

Sincerely,

Charlotte

Submitted by
Marilyn Bleck

PRAYER SHAWL DONORS:

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has also blossomed, thanks to wonderful knitters Donna Warrick (who has made too many to count), Marilyn Barto, Susan Noble, and Marilyn Foster. These shawls are given to persons we are connected to those in need of prayer and support. Call the office if you would like one to give to a loved one.

Dear Members and Friends,

In an effort to GO GREEN, using less paper, ink and energy and update our records at the same time, we are asking that you let us know if you would like to continue receiving *The Clarion* newsletter

- through the US Postal Service mail
- via the internet by email. My email address is: _____
- via the internet through the church website (www.sfmethodistchurch.org)
- discontinue receiving it.

Also, please let us know if you would like to

- Add a friend to mailings. Email or Post Office address:

Please indicate any membership changes:

- I wish to join this church
 - by letter of transfer
 - by profession of faith.
- Transfer my membership to _____

- Withdraw my membership due to _____
(You will be contacted again in one year to confirm this decision.)

Thank you for helping us with this.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____